



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 09/15/2009

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2009
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Jim Robillard, Nancy Campbell and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Jeanne Leary, Josie Burton, Mustafa Varoglu, Elizabeth Karpati.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission tabled the June 10, 2009 minutes.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the July 28, 2009 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0-1 with Ms. Campbell abstaining.

Request for Field Fee Re-Consideration for Peirce Turf

Mr. Connelly presented the request from Mr. Moniak to change the policy for field fees for groups that strictly use the Peirce Turf. Mr. Connelly stated that these groups have been subjected to the new higher rental cost by the school department within the last year. Mr. Connelly also stated that the \$6 field fee cost, which goes directly to natural turf maintenance, did not seem relevant to groups strictly using the turf. Mr. Connelly did state that there are some groups that use both the artificial turf and the natural turf fields throughout a season and those groups would still be paying the \$6 per participant fee. Ms. Mayer stated that the \$1.25 permit administration fee should remain to assist with the Recreation Departments overhead for scheduling the fields. Mr. Connelly agreed.

Ms. Campbell motioned to amend the field fee policy for groups who strictly use the artificial turf fields to eliminate the \$6 field maintenance fee but keep the \$1.25 permit administrative fee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Capital Requests FY 2011

Mr. Connelly presented the FY 2011 Recreation Capital Request. Mr. Connelly stated that the request is similar to last year's request, which received no park/playground funding. Mr. Connelly stated that he contacted Leonard Design Associates and based on their advice increased the original cost estimate by 5% to meet the current market pricing. The Commission discussed the requests. Mr. Vitters asked that FY 2010 CDBG funding be included in the master plan. Ms. Mayer suggested contacting the Friends of Tennis to try to get them on board for fundraising efforts to assist with both the Wellington and Spy Pond Courts. Mr. Connelly will approach the tennis organization.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the multi-year plan and FY 2011 capital request:

~	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2020
Location	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2021
~	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Florence Ave	~		~		\$210,000	~
Hibbert Street		\$288,750	~		~	~
Hurd Field			~	~	~	\$367,500
North Union		\$236,250	~		~	~
Robbins Farm	~		~	\$483,000	~	~
Spy Pond Tennis			\$446,250		~	~
Turkey Hill	~		~	~		\$78,750
Wellington Courts	\$525,728		~	~	~	~
Wellington Play ground & Clean-up	~	~	~		\$427,624	~
Safety Improvements	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Feasibility Study	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal CDBG Parks	\$0	\$63,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$71,000	\$0
Subtotal Town Parks-CDBG	\$610,728	\$547,000	\$481,250	\$568,000	\$651,624	\$531,250
Total w/o CDBG	\$610,728	\$610,000	\$531,250	\$568,000	\$722,624	\$531,250

McClennen Skateboard Park Issues

Mr. Connelly reviewed the issues with improper use of the skate park. Mr. Connelly stated that the open area adjacent to the playground end of the park creates a problem for toddlers and non-skateboarders that wander into the skate park. Ms. Mayer stated that this issue has resulted in some minor parent altercations and was becoming a safety issue for the users. Mr. Connelly recommended installing a fence from behind the half-pipe to the edge of the wooded area. The Commission discussed how the project would be funded. Mr. Connelly stated that he would see if any funds were available in the McClennen Park Funds.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the fencing in the proposed location, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Special Event Approvals

There were no special events requiring approval at this time.

Rink and Recreation Update – End of Year Budgets Friends of Park, Field Fees and End of Year Reservoir

Mr. Connelly reviewed the end of year budget for the Friends of Parks stating that the uncommitted balance was just over \$3,000 with the remaining funds being held for the portable bathrooms.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the end of year budget for the field fees stating that the current balance of \$55,000 does not take into consideration turf treatment expenses committed to but not paid for this season.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the budgetary numbers for the 2009 Reservoir Beach Season. Mr. Connelly stated that the inclement weather for the spring and early summer clearly impacted their seasonal numbers significantly. Mr. Connelly stated that this would be tough to bounce back from without having a hot spell in late spring.

Ms. Leary asked that for large events at the rink the police assist with the parking on Overlook Road. Mr. Connelly stated that he would discuss this with the police for predictable large events.

Capital Improvement Update

Thorndike Parking – Mr. Connelly stated that the project was slated to be bid in early winter for a spring/summer build.

Summer Street Playground – Design for the playground has been awarded to Warner Larson Associates. Mr. Connelly stated that the public hearing would be held next week.

Summer Street Fencing and Pavement Removal – Ms. Mayer stated that she was sending a follow-up note to Mr. Bean regarding this issue.

Spy Pond Playground Surfacing – Mr. Connelly stated that the project had to be re-bid and should be on track for late October construction.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly stated that the Town Manager has asked that this project be put on hold until some more information is available from the School Dept. for the Thompson School renovation project.

Pathway Maintenance – Spy Pond, Menotomy and McClennen – Mr. Connelly discussed the concerns at all three facilities. Members of the Friends of Spy Pond shared their concerns about pathway erosion. DPW has expressed concern with the cost of the materials currently being used and have recommended the use of stone dust. Mr. Connelly will set up a meeting with Mr. Vitters, Mr. Bean and the Town Engineer to discuss possible remedies and materials.

Park Policies

Gifting Policy – Mr. Connelly stated that the gifting policy had been approved by the Town Manager and Town Counsel and a final copy would be e-mailed to the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that the new policy was on line and was sent to the three individuals interested in gifting benches.

Amplification Policy – Ms. Leary asked what policy was in place, as the neighbors had problems at Summer St. over the summer with youth baseball use of loudspeakers to announce games. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer stated that this policy would be evaluated by the Committee after receiving feedback from the user groups. Ms. Leary and Mr. Robillard discussed having a meeting with Youth Baseball/Softball to discuss some of the neighborhood concerns. Mr. Robillard will set up this meeting.

Committee Updates

Portable Restrooms – Mr. Connelly stated that the unit at Hurd was tipped over again and was being removed. Mr. Connelly also stated that he had discussed the handicapped accessibility issue with Town Counsel. After that conversation, it is recommended that in the spring all of the units should be handicapped accessible units. Ms. Mayer suggested submitting a CDBG request for the difference in the pricing from a regular sized unit to a handicapped accessible unit and additional clean-out costs.

Green Dog Committee – Ms. Mayer stated that a private group of A-Dog members is continuing to pursue this issue, and the Green Dog Committee would be looking at ways to expand the task force.

Skateboard Park – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Annual Golf Tournament – Mr. Connelly shared the updated numbers for the tournament.

Other

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation